

CHAPTER IV: INDICATORS OF FAMILY WELL-BEING AMONG FAMILIES STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS

This chapter presents findings on various indicators of family well-being among those families who were still off Food Stamps at the time of the survey. Results are presented for the following key indicators:

- adverse events,
- access to food,
- health care coverage, and
- comparisons to life on Food Stamps.

A. ADVERSE EVENTS REPORTED BY RESPONDENTS

This section presents findings on negative or adverse events that happened to respondents while on Food Stamps or after leaving to determine whether incidents of hardship had increased after leaving. Respondents who were still off Food Stamps were asked whether specific adverse events had happened to them. If they indicated that an event had ever happened, they were asked whether the event had occurred in the past 12 months, before the past 12 months, or in both time periods. The term “in the past 12 months” was designed to correspond roughly to the time period since they left Food Stamps. It was decided not to ask respondents whether the events had happened “since you left Food Stamps,” because we were concerned that this might bias the results.

1. Adverse Events Among the Overall Sample

Exhibit IV-1 presents the findings for the respondents who were still off Food Stamps. The exhibit shows the percentage of respondents who reported whether specific events had happened to them in the past year and before the past year.

Overview

One of the key findings from Exhibit IV-1 is that respondents in Cohort Two reported experiencing more hardships in the past year than before the last year, while respondents in Cohort One were generally less likely to report an increase in hardships. For example, the percentage who had to move because they could not afford housing increased from 6 percent to 11 percent. The percentage who fell behind on a utility bill increased from 15 percent to 49 percent. There was also a significant increase in the percentage who had gone without heat, water, or electricity, and who had had their telephone cut off. In addition, the percentage who had sent their children to live with someone else for financial reasons increased by a factor of three.

Another major finding is that only about 17 percent of the respondents in Cohort Two reported that they had experienced none of the hardships in the past year. By contrast, almost

32 percent of the respondents in Cohort One reported that they had experienced none of the hardships in the past year.

A possible explanation for these findings is that the Cohort Two respondents were dealing with the beginnings of the recession at the time when they were interviewed. In contrast, the Cohort One respondents were interviewed before the recession began.

EXHIBIT IV-1 ADVERSE EVENTS THAT HAD HAPPENED TO RESPONDENTS (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Adverse Event	Cohort One (N = 337)		Cohort Two (N = 303)	
	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year
Got behind in paying for rent or other housing	31.0%*	38.8%*	12.6%*	40.1%*
Had to move because could not pay for housing (Moved at all in last 12 months)	21.4%*	8.4%*	6.2%*	11.5%*
Got behind on a utility bill	N/A	22.0%	N/A	24.3%
Went without electricity	32.1%*	44.6%*	14.8%*	48.8%*
Went without heat	7.0%	10.1%	2.8%*	11.0%*
Had water cut off	5.1%	5.8%	3.0%*	7.2%*
Had to go to a homeless shelter	7.1%	7.8%	2.8%*	8.1%*
Had telephone cut off	1.9%	0.8%	1.3%	0.0%
Children had to live with someone else because could not afford to take care of them	29.7%	30.6%	11.9%*	32.7%*
Needed a regular babysitter or child care service but could not find it	3.1%	1.6%	1.3%*	4.8%*
Had a car or truck taken away because could not pay for it	13.6%	14.8%	10.3%*	21.3%*
Had a child who got in trouble with police	15.0%	7.0%	8.5%	9.0%
Needed a regular babysitter or child care service but could not pay for it	3.5%	4.7%	3.5%	3.3%
Had someone in your home who got sick or hurt when you could not get medical care	16.9%	17.0%	7.1%*	23.4%*
None of the above adverse events	8.9%	9.9%	3.0%*	10.5%*
	27.4%	31.8%	66.7%*	16.9%*

* Differences between “before” and “during” statistically significant at the .05 level

Housing

As indicated in Exhibit IV-1, almost 39 percent of Cohort One reported that they had fallen behind in paying for housing in the past 12 months, compared to 31 percent who reported having had this problem before the past year. For Cohort Two, the percentage increased from 13 percent to 40 percent. About 8 percent of Cohort One reported that they had to move in the past year because they could not afford housing. This compares to 21

percent who reported having to move before the past year. Among Cohort Two, there was an increase in the percentage who had to move. Overall, 30 percent of Cohort One and 36 percent of Cohort Two had moved for any reason in the past year.

Utility Bills

Almost 45 percent of Cohort One reported that they fallen behind in paying utility bills in the past year, compared to 32 percent who had experienced this problem prior to the past year. Among Cohort Two, the percentage increased from 15 percent to 49 percent. Relatively few respondents had actually gone without electricity, heat or water in either time period, although there was an increase among Cohort Two in the percentage who had gone without utilities. Among Cohort One, there was no difference between the two time periods in the percentage of respondents whose telephones had been cut off. Among the Cohort Two, however, the percentage increased from 12 percent to almost 33 percent.

Homelessness and Children

Only a very small percentage of respondents had lived in a homeless shelter in either time period. Very few respondents in either time period reported that they had to send their children to live with someone else.

Child Care

In Cohort One, there was no difference between the two time periods in the percentage of respondents who reported problems with finding child care or paying for child care. Among Cohort Two, the percentage increased from 10 percent to 21 percent.

Medical Care

Among Cohort One, almost 10 percent of the respondents reported that there had been times in the past year when someone in their household needed medical care but could not get it. Almost 9 percent reported having experienced this problem before the past year. Among Cohort Two, the percentage increased from 3 percent to 10.5 percent.

2. Adverse Events by Household Type

Exhibit IV-2 presents the findings on adverse events experienced by respondents, by household type.

Housing

Among Cohort One, there was little difference between respondents from one-parent families and respondents from two-parent families in the percentage who had fallen behind in housing payments in the past year or who had been forced to move in the past year due to lack of money. However, respondents from one-parent families were much more likely to have

experienced these problems before the last year. Among two-parent families, the percentage who had fallen behind in their housing payments increased from 25 percent to 39 percent. Only 8 percent of one-parent families had to move in the past year, compared to 29 percent who had experienced this problem before the past year.

Utilities

In Cohort One, there was not a major difference between respondents from one-parent families and respondents from two-parent families in the percentage who had fallen behind in a utility bill in the past year. However, among respondents from two-parent families, the percentage who had fallen behind in the past year was almost double the percentage who had experienced this problem before the past year.

Medical Care

In both cohorts, respondents from two-parent families were almost twice as likely as respondents from one-parent families to report that there had been times in the past year when a household member needed medical care but could not get it.

EXHIBIT IV-2 ADVERSE EVENTS THAT HAD HAPPENED TO RESPONDENTS, BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

	Cohort One				Cohort Two			
	1-parent (N = 166)		2-parent (N = 173)		1-parent (N = 145)		2-parent (N = 169)	
	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year
Got behind in paying for rent or other housing	33.9%	38.7%	24.9%*	39.1%*	11.0%*	37.4%*	15.9%*	45.8%*
Had to move because could not pay for housing	28.7%*	8.0%*	9.8%	9.3%	7.8%	12.3%	3.1%*	10.0%*
(Moved at all in last 12 months)	N/A	24.0%	N/A	18.3%	N/A	24.6%	N/A	23.7%
Got behind on a utility bill	36.0%	44.3%	23.7%*	45.4%*	14.9%*	46.5%*	14.7%*	53.7%*
Went without electricity	6.2%	9.7%	8.6%	10.8%	3.6%*	12.8%*	1.2%	7.5%
Went without heat	4.3%	5.6%	6.8%	6.2%	4.1%	7.3%	0.9%	7.1%
Had water cut off	7.3%	9.6%	6.5%	3.9%	2.6%	9.3%	3.4%	5.9%
Had to go to a homeless shelter	2.4%	1.2%	0.7%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
Had telephone cut off	33.9%	30.8%	20.5%*	30.0%*	11.8%*	34.9%*	12.4%*	28.5%*
Children had to live with someone else because could not afford to take care of them	3.9%	1.6%	1.2%	1.5%	1.4%	6.5%	1.2%	1.5%
Needed a regular babysitter or child care service but could not find it	13.9%	14.4%	12.9%	15.6%	11.4%*	24.5%*	8.0%	14.7%
Had a car or truck taken away because could not pay for it	15.3%*	4.9%*	14.2%	11.4%	7.3%	9.8%	11.2%	7.6%
Had a child who got in trouble with police	4.6%	4.5%	1.3%	5.3%	4.0%	2.9%	2.4%	4.2%
Needed a regular babysitter or child care service but could not pay for it	17.5%	14.4%	15.7%	22.5%	7.4%*	25.2%*	6.5%*	19.6%*
Had someone in your home who got sick or hurt when you could not get medical care	8.0%	7.7%	10.8%	14.8%	3.2%	8.5%	2.8%*	14.7%*
None of the above adverse events	27.4%	26.4%	27.4%*	43.5%*	68.3%*	16.7%*	63.6%*	17.3%*

* Differences between “before” and “during” statistically significant at the .05 level

Adverse Events by Employment Status

Exhibit IV-3 presents the findings on adverse events experienced by respondents in the past year, by current employment status.

Housing

For Cohort One, the data show that 45 percent of currently unemployed respondents had fallen behind in housing payments in the past year, compared to 36 percent of currently employed respondents. However, among Cohort Two, the pattern was reversed. Unemployed

respondents from Cohort One were about twice as likely to have had to move in the past year because of lack of money, and were also about twice as likely to have had their electricity and water cut off. Among Cohort Two, however, employment status did not have a clear impact on these indicators.

Utilities

About 38 percent of unemployed respondents in Cohort One had had their telephone service cut off in the past year, compared to 28 percent of employed respondents. In Cohort Two, however, this pattern was reversed.

Medical Care

About 16 percent of the unemployed respondents in Cohort One reported that there had been occasions in the past year when someone in their home had been hurt or sick but they could not get medical care. This compares to only 7.5 percent of currently employed respondents. Among the Cohort Two, however, employment status had no impact.

Summary

Almost 31 percent of unemployed respondents in Cohort One reported that none of the adverse events had happened to them in the past year, compared to 32 percent of the employed respondents. The data for Cohort Two also showed little difference between employed and unemployed respondents. Overall, the data do not show many statistically significant differences between working and non-working respondents in hardships experienced.

**EXHIBIT IV-3
ADVERSE EVENTS THAT HAD HAPPENED TO RESPONDENTS IN THE
PAST 12 MONTHS, BY CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS
(PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

	Cohort One		Cohort Two	
	Working	Not Working	Working	Not Working
N	243	93	220	83
Got behind in paying for rent or other housing	36.5%	44.9%	42.5%	33.7%
Had to move because could not pay for housing	6.5%	13.4%	12.6%	8.7%
(Moved at all in last 12 months)	24.9%*	13.8%*	24.8%	23.0%
Got behind on a utility bill	44.0%	46.3%	49.9%	46.3%
Went without electricity	7.7%*	16.3%*	13.3%	5.1%
Went without heat	5.5%	6.4%	7.8%	5.6%
Had water cut off	6.6%	11.1%	7.7%	9.6%
Had to go to a homeless shelter	0.7%	1.1%	1.8%	0.0%
Had telephone cut off	27.6%*	38.4%*	34.0%	29.4%
Children had to live with someone else because could not afford to take care of them	1.9%	0.8%	5.8%	2.5%
Needed a regular babysitter or child care service but could not find it	13.8%	17.4%	20.8%	22.6%
Had a car or truck taken away because could not pay for it	5.6%	10.6%	9.3%	8.5%
Had a child who got in trouble with police	3.5%	7.9%	4.2%	0.9%
Needed a regular babysitter or child care service but could not pay for it	15.2%	21.6%	24.1%	21.5%
Had someone in your home who got sick or hurt when you could not get medical care	7.5%*	16.1%*	11.0%	9.1%
None of the above adverse events	32.3%	30.6%	16.2%	18.8%

* Differences between “working” and “not working” statistically significant at the .05 level

Adverse Events by Ethnicity

The data for Cohort One show that whites were somewhat more likely than blacks to have fallen behind in housing payments in the past year, and were also more likely to have had to move because they could not pay for housing. This pattern did not hold up for Cohort Two.

In Cohort One, whites were also more likely to have fallen behind on a utility bill and to have had their electricity and water cut off. The reverse was true for Cohort Two. In Cohort One, whites were more likely than blacks to report problems in finding and paying for child care. In Cohort Two, there was no difference between blacks and whites. In both samples, whites were more likely than blacks to report that there had been occasions in the past year when someone in their home had been hurt or sick but could not get medical care.

B. ACCESS TO FOOD

Respondents who were still off Food Stamps were asked a series of questions about access to food. For Cohort Two, the questions included the six items from the short version of the USDA food security index.

Cutting the Size of Meals or Skipping Meals, by Household Type

Exhibit IV-4 shows the percentage of respondents who reported that they or any family members had cut the size of meals or skipped meals because of lack of money to buy food. As indicated in the exhibit, 25 percent of Cohort One reported that they had cut the size of meals or skipped meals in the past year, compared to 15 percent who had done so before the past year. Among Cohort Two, the percentage increased from 9 percent to almost 31 percent.

Among Cohort One, there was not a major difference between respondents from one-parent families and respondents from two-parent families in the percentage who had cut the size of meals or skipped meals in the past year. Among Cohort Two, the percentage was slightly higher for one-parent cases.

**EXHIBIT IV-4
DID YOU OR YOUR FAMILY EVER CUT THE SIZE OF MEALS
OR SKIP MEALS BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH MONEY TO
BUY FOOD? (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Percent who cut meals/skipped meals	1-parent		2-parent		Total	
	Before Last Year	During Last year	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year
Cohort One (N = 337)	12.9%*	24.5%*	17.7%	25.9%	15.3%*	25.2%*
Cohort Two (N = 303)	9.1%*	32.6%*	8.7%*	26.7%*	9.0%*	30.7%*

* Differences between “before” and “during” statistically significant at the .05 level

Cutting the Size of Meals or Skipping Meals, by Other Characteristics

Exhibit IV-5 shows the percentage of respondents who reported that they or any family members had cut the size of meals or skipped meals in the past year, by selected characteristics. The data indicate that there was no difference between employed and unemployed persons in the percentage who had cut the size of meals or skipped meals. Among the Cohort One, about 29 percent of the respondents who had not completed high school had cut the size of meals or skipped meals, compared to only 19.3 percent of those who had attended college. In Cohort Two, education had no impact. In both samples, whites were more likely than blacks to have cut the size of meals or skipped meals.

**EXHIBIT IV-5
PERCENTAGE REPORTING THAT THEY HAD CUT THE SIZE OF
MEALS OR SKIPPED MEALS IN THE PAST YEAR DUE TO LACK OF
MONEY, BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS
(PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Characteristics	Cohort One	Cohort Two
<i>N</i>	337	303
<i>Employment Status</i>		
Currently working	24.9%	30.9%
Not working	25.0%	30.2%
<i>Education</i>		
Did not complete high school or GED	29.0%	29.4%
Completed high school or GED only	25.5%	29.7%
Attended college	19.3%	35.0%
<i>Ethnicity</i>		
Black	21.2%	27.7%
White	30.7%	35.5%

* None of the differences between sub-groups statistically significant at the .05 level

Frequency of Cutting the Size of Meals or Skipping Meals

Respondents who reported having to cut the size of meals or skip meals were asked how often this had happened in the past year and before the past year. As shown in Exhibit IV-6, almost 37 percent of the Cohort One respondents who reported having a problem in the past year stated that the problem had occurred in every month. In contrast, only 27 percent of those who reported a problem before the last year stated that it had occurred every month. For Cohort Two, however, there was a decrease in the percentage who reported that the problem had occurred every month.

Applying the 36.6 percent figure for Cohort One to the 25.2 percent who reported having a problem in the past year (see Exhibit IV-4 above), we calculate that 9.2 percent of all Cohort One had to cut the size of meals or skip meals in every month during the past year. The figure for Cohort Two was 7.7 percent.

About 45 percent of the Cohort One respondents who reported having a problem in the past year stated that it happened in some months but not every month, while 17.9 percent indicated that the problem had occurred in only one or two months. For Cohort Two, the percentages were 48 percent and 27 percent.

**EXHIBIT IV-6
HOW OFTEN DID YOU OR YOUR FAMILY CUT THE SIZE OF MEALS
OR SKIP MEALS BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH MONEY TO
BUY FOOD? (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Response	Cohort One*					
	1-parent		2-parent		Total	
	Before Last Year (n=21)	During Last Year (n=41)	Before Last Year (n=31)	During Last Year (n=45)	Before Last Year (n=52)	During Last Year (n=84)
Almost every month	15.2%**	36.2%**	34.5%	37.0%	26.6%	36.6%
Some months but not every month	47.5%	52.7%	45.2%	39.0%	46.1%	45.5%
Only one or two months	37.3%**	11.2%**	20.3%	24.0%	27.3%	17.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Response	Cohort Two*					
	1-parent		2-parent		Total	
	Before Last Year (n=13)	During Last Year (n=47)	Before Last Year (n=15)	During Last Year (n=45)	Before Last Year (n=27)	During Last Year (n=93)
Almost every month	49.3%	22.7%	13.6%	30.7%	38.0%	25.0%
Some months but not every month	39.7%	52.7%	17.2%	37.9%	32.6%	48.4%
Only one or two months	11.0%	24.6%	69.2%	31.5%	29.4%	26.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* The respondents in this table are those who reported that they had to cut the size of meals or skip meals in the past year

**Differences between “before” and “during” statistically significant at the .05 level. Sub-sample sizes for Cohort Two too small for testing

Actions Taken by Respondents

Respondents who reported that they had to cut the size of meals or skip meals were asked what actions they took to address the situation. As indicated in Exhibit IV-7, almost 83 percent of the Cohort One respondents who reported that they had skipped meals in the past year dealt with the situation by getting food or money from friends or family. This was an increase from 65 percent of those who had experienced problems buying food before the last year. For Cohort Two, the percentage increased from 63 percent to 77 percent.

About 5 percent of the Cohort One respondents who had problems getting food in the past year reported that they went hungry. This was a decline from 16 percent of those who had experienced problems buying food before the past year. For Cohort Two, very few respondents reported going hungry in either time period. Combining the data from Exhibit IV-4 and Exhibit IV-4, we find that about 1.3 percent of all Cohort One respondents reported that they went hungry in the past year (25.2 percent x 5.3 percent). The figure for Cohort Two was 0.6 percent.

EXHIBIT IV-7
WHAT DID YOU DO WHEN YOU OR YOUR FAMILY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR FOOD? (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Response	Cohort One*					
	1-parent		2-parent		Total	
	Before Last Year (n=21)	During Last Year (n=41)	Before Last Year (n=31)	During Last Year (n=45)	Before Last Year (n=52)	During Last Year (n=84)
Went hungry	17.7%	7.3%	11.6%	9.2%	16.3%	5.3%
Got meals or food at shelter/pantry	5.6%	0.0%	22.5%	16.9%	16.3%	7.4%
Got meals/food or money for food from church	0.0%	0.0%	4.7%	8.5%	2.2%	4.5%
Were given food or money for food from friends or relatives	76.6%	92.7%	61.2%	65.4%	65.2%	82.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Response	Cohort Two*					
	1-parent		2-parent		Total	
	Before Last Year (n=13)	During Last Year (n=47)	Before Last Year (n=15)	During Last Year (n=45)	Before Last Year (n=27)	During Last Year (n=93)
Went hungry	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	7.3%	2.6%	1.9%
Got meals or food at shelter/pantry	15.8%	11.1%	33.3%	16.4%	21.1%	12.0%
Got meals/food or money for food from church	10.5%	9.3%	14.3%	10.9%	13.2%	9.3%
Were given food or money for food from friends or relatives	68.4%	79.6%	52.4%	65.5%	63.2%	76.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* The respondents in this table are those who reported that they had to cut the size of meals or skip meals in the past year

Reasons Why Respondents Had Problems

Respondents who reported that they had to cut the size of meals or skip meals were asked how it happened that they did not have enough money to buy food. Respondents could provide multiple answers. As shown in Exhibit IV-8, about 22 percent of Cohort One said that they spent all the money on other things besides food. The figure for Cohort Two was 45 percent.

About 21 percent of Cohort One respondents who had experienced food problems reported that they had a hard time budgeting, while 5 percent indicated that Food Stamps were not enough to pay for food. The figures for Cohort Two were 43 percent and 8 percent. About

31 percent of Cohort One and 28 percent of Cohort Two reported that they had lost a job that paid for food.

**EXHIBIT IV-8
HOW DID IT HAPPEN THAT YOU DID NOT HAVE MONEY TO BUY
FOOD IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS? – COHORT ONE
(PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Response	1-parent	2-parent	Total
N	41	45	84*
Spent all money on things other than food	30.8%	14.6%	22.3%
Had a hard time budgeting	21.9%	21.2%	21.5%
Food Stamps were not enough to pay for food	6.2%	4.9%	5.3%
Had unexpected or emergency expenses	18.8%	20.3%	19.6%
Had more people to feed	0.0%	1.6%	0.9%
Lost financial help from friend or relative	6.2%	12.2%	9.4%
Lost job that provided food	25.9%	36.2%	31.3%
Don't know/can't say	0.0%	10.1%	5.3%
Food Stamps were cut/reduced	4.9%	0.0%	2.3%
Other	4.9%	0.0%	2.3%

* The respondents in this table are those who reported that they had to cut the size of meals or skip meals in the past year

**EXHIBIT IV-9
HOW DID IT HAPPEN THAT YOU DID NOT HAVE MONEY TO BUY
FOOD IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS? – COHORT TWO
(PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Response	1-parent	2-parent	Total
N	47	45	93*
Spent all money on things other than food	42.3%	50.0%	44.5%
Had a hard time budgeting	48.1%	31.5%	43.4%
Lost job that provided food	29.6%	24.2%	28.1%
Food Stamps were not enough to pay for food	9.6%	4.9%	8.3%
Had unexpected or emergency expenses	5.8%	6.1%	5.9%
Lost financial help from friend or relative	1.5%	9.3%	3.8%
Had more people to feed	1.5%	2.8%	1.9%
Quit Food Stamps and realized later still needed them	0.0%	2.8%	0.8%
Other	5.4%	1.6%	4.3%

* The respondents in this table are those who reported that they had to cut the size of meals or skip meals in the past year

Eating Less Due to Lack of Money

Respondents were asked whether they had ever eaten less than they felt they should because there was not enough money to buy food. As shown in Exhibit IV-10, 27 percent of Cohort One reported that, in the last 12 months, they had eaten less on occasion than they felt they should. This compares to almost 22 percent of respondents who reported having a similar problem before the last year. Among Cohort Two, the percentage increased from 11 percent to 26 percent. Respondents from one-parent families were somewhat more likely to report having had a problem in the past year than respondents from two-parent families.

**EXHIBIT IV-10
DID YOU EVER EAT LESS THAN YOU FELT YOU SHOULD BECAUSE
THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY FOOD?
(PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Response	1-parent		2-parent		Total	
	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year
Cohort One (N = 337)	21.1%	28.9%	22.4%	25.5%	21.8%	27.1%
Cohort Two (N = 303)	12.4%*	28.2%*	7.6%*	22.9%*	10.8%*	26.4%*

* Differences between “before” and “during” statistically significant at the .05 level

Not Eating When Hungry

Respondents were asked whether they were ever hungry but did not eat because they could not afford food. Exhibit IV-11 indicates that 10.7 percent of Cohort One reported having this problem in the past year – exactly the same as the percentage in the period before the past year. Among Cohort Two, the percentage increased slightly from 5.0 percent to 7.6 percent. Respondents from one-parent families were slightly more likely than respondents from two-parent families to report having a problem in the past year.

EXHIBIT IV-11
WERE YOU EVER HUNGRY BUT DIDN'T EAT BECAUSE YOU
COULDN'T AFFORD FOOD? (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Response	1-parent		2-parent		Total	
	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year
Cohort One (N = 337)	10.1%	11.6%	11.4%	9.8%	10.7%	10.7%
Cohort Two (N = 303)	6.3%	8.3%	2.4%	6.1%	5.0%	7.6%

* None of the differences between “before” and “during” were statistically significant at the .05 level

Food Not Lasting

The Cohort Two respondents were asked the question: “The food that I bought just didn’t last, and I didn’t have money to get more. Was that often true, sometimes true, or never true for you?” As shown in Exhibit IV-12, about 16 percent of the respondents reported that this was often true for them in the past year, compared to 12 percent before the past year. Another 41 percent reported that it was sometimes true in the past year, compared to 43 percent before the past year.

EXHIBIT IV-12
“THE FOOD THAT I BOUGHT JUST DID NOT LAST AND I DID NOT
HAVE MONEY TO GET MORE” -- HOW OFTEN TRUE?
-- COHORT TWO (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Response	1-parent (N = 145)		2-parent (N = 169)		Total (N = 303)	
	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year
Often true	11.9%	15.4%	13.7%	16.4%	12.5%	15.8%
Sometimes true	42.4%	41.9%	43.1%	38.1%	42.6%	40.7%
Never true	45.7%	42.7%	43.3%	45.4%	44.9%	43.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* None of the differences between “before” and “during” were statistically significant at the .05 level

Eating Balanced Meals

The Cohort Two respondents were asked the question “We couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals. Was this often true, sometimes true, or never true for you?” As indicated in Exhibit IV-13, 12.5 percent of all respondents reported that it was often true in the past year –

about the same as before the past year. Another 28 percent reported that it was sometimes true in the past year, compared to 27 percent before the past year.

EXHIBIT IV-13
“I/WE COULD NOT AFFORD TO EAT BALANCED MEALS”
-- HOW OFTEN TRUE? – COHORT TWO
(PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Response	1-parent (N = 145)		2-parent (N = 169)		Total (N = 303)	
	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year	Before Last Year	During Last Year
Often true	12.7%	11.4%	13.5%	14.7%	12.9%	12.5%
Sometimes true	24.7%	27.9%	32.6%	29.4%	27.3%	28.4%
Never true	62.6%	60.7%	53.8%	55.9%	59.7%	59.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* None of the differences between “before” and “during” were statistically significant at the .05 level

Food Security Index

The six-item USDA Food Security Index was calculated for Cohort Two. The index could not be calculated for Cohort One because of the format of the questions used in the initial survey. Exhibit IV-14 indicates that about 53 percent of Cohort Two could be classified as food secure in the year since leaving Food Stamps. Almost 32 percent were food insecure without hunger, including 36 percent of the two-parent cases. About 15 percent were food insecure with hunger, including 18 percent of the one-parent cases. The difference between the 1-parent and 2-parent samples was statistically significant at the .05 level.

EXHIBIT IV-14
FOOD SECURITY INDEX, BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE,
COHORT TWO (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Food Security	1-parent	2-parent	Total
N	145	169	303
Food secure	52.3%	54.0%	52.9%
Food insecure with no hunger evident	29.5%	36.0%	31.6%
Food insecure with hunger evident	18.2%*	10.0%*	15.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*The difference between the 1-parent and 2-parent samples was statistically significant at the .05 level

Food Security Index by Gender

Exhibit IV-15 shows that 63 percent of males were food secure, compared to only 52 percent of females. However, almost 19 percent of males were food insecure with hunger, compared to only 15 percent of females.

EXHIBIT IV-15 FOOD SECURITY INDEX, BY GENDER, COHORT TWO (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Food Security	Female	Male
N	128	114
Food secure	52.2%	63.2%
Food insecure with no hunger evident	32.5%*	17.9%*
Food insecure with hunger evident	15.3%	18.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

* The difference between females and males was statistically significant at the .05 level

Food Security Index by Ethnicity

Exhibit IV-16 shows that 19 percent of whites were food insecure with hunger, compared to only 13 percent of blacks.

EXHIBIT IV-16 FOOD SECURITY INDEX, BY ETHNICITY, COHORT TWO (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Food Security	Black	White
N	189	151
Food secure	54.4%	50.5%
Food insecure with no hunger evident	32.5%	30.5%
Food insecure with hunger evident	13.1%	19.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

* The difference between blacks and whites was **not** statistically significant at the .05 level

Food Security Index by Age, Education, and Employment Status

The data showed that there was no consistent relationship between food security and age among the respondents. In addition, food security did not vary consistently by education among the sample.

As indicated in Exhibit IV-17, food security did not vary much by the employment status of the respondents themselves. However, food insecurity was especially high among respondents who were not working and not living with an employed adult – about 27 percent of these respondents were food insecure with hunger.

EXHIBIT IV-17
FOOD SECURITY INDEX, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF
RESPONDENT AND OTHER ADULTS, COHORT TWO
(PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Food Security	Respondent Employed	Respondent Not Employed, But Living with Employed Adult	Respondent Not Employed, and Not Living with Employed Adult
N	122	52	68
Food secure	52.9%	57.8%	49.2%
Food insecure with no hunger evident	34.2%	26.3%	23.6%
Food insecure with hunger evident	12.9%*	15.9%	27.2%*
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Difference was statistically significant at the .05 level

C. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Health Insurance Coverage

Respondents were asked whether they, or the people who lived with them, had some type of health insurance coverage, including Medicaid. As indicated in Exhibit IV-18, about 79 percent of the Cohort One and 87 percent of the Cohort Two answered “yes” to this question.

EXHIBIT IV-18
DO YOU OR OTHER PEOPLE WHO LIVE WITH YOU HAVE SOME
KIND OF HEALTH INSURANCE, INCLUDING MEDICAID?
(PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

	Cohort One		
Response	1-parent	2-parent	Total
N	164	173	337
Yes	74.9%*	82.2%*	78.7%
No	25.1%	17.8%	21.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Cohort Two		
Response	1-parent	2-parent	Total
N	145	168	303
Yes	86.4%*	86.9%*	86.6%
No	13.6%	13.1%	13.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*The differences between the 1-parent and 2-parent samples were not statistically significant at the .05 level

Type of Health Coverage

Respondents who reported that they or a household member had some type of health coverage were asked what type of coverage they had. As indicated in Exhibit IV-19, about 77 percent of Cohort One and 82 percent of Cohort Two reported that the coverage was through Medicaid. About 39 percent of Cohort One and 40 percent of Cohort Two reported that their health coverage was through private insurance (respondents could report different types of health coverage for different household members).

EXHIBIT IV-19
WHAT TYPE OF MEDICAL COVERAGE DO YOU HAVE?
(PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

	Cohort One		
Response	1-parent	2-parent	Total
N	123	142	265
Medicaid	72.1%	81.6%	77.2%
Private insurance	41.2%	37.3%	39.1%
Medicare	3.8%	2.3%	3.0%
CHAMPUS	0.0%	1.4%	0.8%
	Cohort Two		
Response	1-parent	2-parent	Total
N	125	146	262
Medicaid	83.5%	79.5%	82.2%
Private insurance	39.3%	42.3%	40.3%
Medicare	0.6%	1.9%	1.0%
CHAMPUS	1.2%	0.5%	1.0%

Private Health Coverage

Respondents who reported that they or a household member were covered by private health insurance were asked who paid for the coverage. As indicated in Exhibit IV-20, about 74 percent of these respondents from Cohort One reported that their employer paid all or part of the health coverage. The figure for Cohort Two was 78 percent.

EXHIBIT IV-20
IF COVERED BY PRIVATE INSURANCE, WHO PAYS FOR IT?
(PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

	Cohort One		
Response	1-parent	2-parent	Total
N	51	53	104
Employer pays all or part of premium	69.5%	78.7%	74.2%
I pay for all or part of it myself	22.2%	17.5%	19.8%
Absent parent pays all or part	6.8%	3.8%	5.3%
Other	9.0%	2.8%	5.8%
	Cohort Two		
Response	1-parent	2-parent	Total
N	49	62	106
Employer pays all or part of premium	75.3%	82.9%	77.9%
I pay for all or part of it myself	24.7%	22.3%	23.9%
Absent parent pays all or part	16.2%	2.1%	11.4%
Other	0.0%	3.2%	1.1%

Profile of Respondents Who Reported Problems with Health Care Access

As shown previously in Exhibit IV-1, about 10 percent of Cohort One and Cohort Two reported that there had been times in the past year when someone in their home had been sick or hurt but could not get medical care. Exhibit IV-21 shows the percentage of respondents who reported this problem, by selected characteristics. As shown in the exhibit, Cohort One respondents who were not currently working were about twice as likely to report having had this problem as persons currently working. However, there was little difference between employed and unemployed persons in Cohort Two.

Almost 20 percent of Cohort One who were not covered by Medicaid reported having had a problem, compared to 8 percent of those currently on Medicaid. For Cohort Two, the percentages were 15 percent and 9 percent, respectively. Whites were somewhat more likely than blacks to report having a problem.

EXHIBIT IV-21 RESPONDENTS REPORTING OCCASIONS WHEN SOMEONE IN THEIR HOME WAS SICK OR HURT IN THE PAST YEAR AND COULD NOT GET MEDICAL CARE, BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Characteristic	Cohort One	Cohort Two
<i>N</i>	33	32
<i>Employment Status</i>		
Currently working	7.5%	11.0%
Not working	16.1%	9.1%
<i>Medicaid Status</i>		
Receiving Medicaid benefits	8.3%	8.6%
Not receiving Medicaid	19.5%	15.0%
<i>Education</i>		
Did not complete high school or GED	18.4%	11.6%
Completed high school or GED only	8.0%	7.4%
Attended college	5.7%	17.6%
<i>Ethnicity</i>		
Black	6.0%	9.6%
White	16.6%	12.2%
<i>Age</i>		
18-24	8.3%	8.4%
25-29	4.0%	5.2%
30-34	12.1%	9.7%
35-39	6.6%	8.9%
40+	15.7%	21.6%

* Sub-sample sizes too small for statistical testing

Health Coverage for Children

Cohort Two respondents were asked if they had any children who were not covered by health insurance. As indicated in Exhibit IV-22, almost 5 percent of the Cohort Two reported that they had at least one child who was not covered by health insurance. Of those respondents who were not in a Medicaid household, almost 11 percent had at least one child without health coverage. Almost 9 percent of high school drop-outs had at least one child without health coverage. Of the respondents aged 40 and older, 14 percent had at least one child without health coverage.

**EXHIBIT IV-22
PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD ONE OR MORE CHILDREN
NOT COVERED BY HEALTH INSURANCE, BY SELECTED
CHARACTERISTICS – COHORT TWO
(PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Characteristic	Percent
<i>N</i>	271
<i>Case Type</i>	
One-parent	4.4%
Two-parent	5.7%
<i>Employment Status</i>	
Currently working	4.2%
Not working	6.5%
<i>Medicaid Status</i>	
Receiving Medicaid benefits	3.5% *
Not receiving Medicaid	10.7% *
<i>Education</i>	
Did not complete high school or GED	8.9%
Completed high school or GED only	4.5%
Attended college	0.0%
<i>Ethnicity</i>	
Black	3.3%
White	7.1%
<i>Age</i>	
18-24	1.4%
25-29	2.4%
30-34	7.1%
35-39	0.0%
40+	14.0%
TOTAL	4.8%

* Difference was statistically significant at the .05 level

D. LIFE SINCE LEAVING FOOD STAMPS

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with three statements relating to the quality of their lives since leaving Food Stamps.

Results for the Overall Sample

As shown in Exhibit IV-23, almost 87 percent of Cohort One and 85 percent of Cohort Two agreed that they felt better about themselves than a year ago. However, almost 58 percent of Cohort One and 51 percent of Cohort Two agreed with the statement that they worried more about their family than a year ago. About 46 percent of Cohort One and 48 percent of Cohort Two reported that they felt more stress than a year ago.

**EXHIBIT IV-23
VIEW OF LIFE SINCE LEAVING FOOD STAMPS,
BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

	Cohort One			
Statement	Response	1-parent	2-parent	Total
	N	166	173	339
You feel better about yourself than a year ago	Agree	86.0%*	87.5%*	86.7%
	Disagree	14.0%	12.5%	13.3%
You worry more about your family now than a year ago	Agree	54.8%*	60.6%*	57.8%
	Disagree	45.2%	39.4%	42.2%
You feel more stress now than you did a year ago	Agree	46.5%*	46.3%*	46.4%
	Disagree	53.5%	53.7%	53.6%
	Cohort Two			
Statement	Response	1-parent	2-parent	Total
	N	145	169	303
You feel better about yourself than a year ago	Agree	83.9%	87.6%	85.1%
	Disagree	16.1%	12.4%	14.9%
You worry more about your family now than a year ago	Agree	52.6%	49.2%	51.5%
	Disagree	47.4%	50.8%	48.5%
You feel more stress now than you did a year ago	Agree	48.9%	45.8%	47.9%
	Disagree	51.1%	54.2%	52.1%

*None of the differences between the 1-parent and 2-parent samples were statistically significant at the .05 level

Life Since Leaving Food Stamps, by Employment Status

Exhibit IV-24 compares working and non-working respondents in terms of whether they agreed or disagreed with the statements about their life since leaving Food Stamps. In Cohort One, 90 percent of employed respondents said that they felt better about themselves

than a year ago, compared to 76 percent of non-working respondents. For Cohort Two, the figures were 87 percent and 81 percent.

Among Cohort One, almost 70 percent of non-working respondents were more worried about their families than a year ago, compared to only 52 percent of working respondents. For Cohort Two, the figures were 62 percent and 47 percent. Almost 54 percent of unemployed respondents in Cohort One felt more stress than a year ago, compared to 44 percent of working respondents. For Cohort Two, the percentages were 58 percent and 44 percent.

**EXHIBIT IV-24
VIEW OF LIFE SINCE LEAVING FOOD STAMPS,
BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Statement	Cohort One		
	Response	Working	Not Working
	N	243	93
You feel better about yourself than a year ago	Agree	90.3% *	76.5% *
	Disagree	9.7%	23.5%
You worry more about your family now than a year ago	Agree	51.6% *	69.6% *
	Disagree	48.4%	30.4%
You feel more stress now than you did a year ago	Agree	43.6%	53.8%
	Disagree	56.4%	46.2%
Statement	Cohort Two		
	Response	Working	Not Working
	N	220	83
You feel better about yourself than a year ago	Agree	86.6%	81.3%
	Disagree	13.4%	18.7%
You worry more about your family now than a year ago	Agree	47.5% *	61.9% *
	Disagree	52.5%	38.1%
You feel more stress now than you did a year ago	Agree	44.1% *	58.0% *
	Disagree	55.9%	42.0%

* Differences were statistically significant at the .05 level

Life Since Leaving Food Stamps, by Ethnicity

The data showed that there was not a major difference between blacks and whites.

Life Since Leaving Food Stamps, by Education

Exhibit IV-25 compares different educational groups in terms of whether they agreed or disagreed with the statements about their life since leaving Food Stamps. As indicated, about two-thirds of the Cohort One respondents who had not completed high school reported that they worried more about their family than a year ago, compared to only 43 percent of those

who had attended college. In Cohort Two, persons who had attended college were also less likely to report being more worried about their family.

EXHIBIT IV-25 VIEW OF LIFE SINCE LEAVING FOOD STAMPS, BY EDUCATION (PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

		Cohort One		
Statement	Response	Did Not Complete High School	Completed High School Only	Attended College
	N	79	181	76
You feel better about yourself than a year ago	Agree	81.7%	90.1%	82.7%
	Disagree	18.3%	9.9%	17.3%
You worry more about your family now than a year ago	Agree	66.5%*	58.1%*	42.7%*
	Disagree	33.5%	41.9%	57.3%
You feel more stress now than you did a year ago	Agree	55.1%**	42.1%**	47.8%
	Disagree	44.9%	57.9%	52.2%
		Cohort Two		
Statement	Response	Did Not Complete High School	Completed High School Only	Attended College
	N	76	168	60
You feel better about yourself than a year ago	Agree	89.3%	83.7%	83.9%
	Disagree	10.7%	16.3%	16.1%
You worry more about your family now than a year ago	Agree	51.2%	55.0%	41.8%
	Disagree	48.8%	45.0%	58.2%
You feel more stress now than you did a year ago	Agree	49.8%	48.5%	43.8%
	Disagree	50.2%	51.5%	56.2%

* The difference between high school drop-outs and other respondents was statistically significant at the .05 level

** Statistically significant at the .05 level